

DETROIT INTERMODAL FREIGHT TERMINAL PROJECT
Draft Notes
Local Advisory Council Meeting
February 20, 2003
LA SED, 7150 W. Vernor, Detroit

Purpose: To brief local community representatives of the progress of the Detroit Intermodal Freight Terminal Project and provide a preview to the public meetings scheduled for the following week.

Attendance: See attached.

Discussion:

Introductions

Following approximately one hour spent reviewing the displays for the public meetings, Mohammed Alghurabi called the regular meeting to order at 8:10 p.m.

Public Meetings

Mohammed Alghurabi asked for comments on materials for the upcoming public meetings, Feb. 24-27.

Kathryn Savoie asked that the changes between the new conceptual layout for the consolidated terminal and the previous conceptual plan be highlighted on a chart. She also requested that all of the information presented at one meeting be presented at all other meetings. Lastly, she reiterated her concerns about the meeting format, suggesting that the public hearing style, with people coming to a microphone for questions and comments for the entire audience to hear, was better.

Karen Kavanaugh asked if the public would be given “group tours” of the displays. Mohammed Alghurabi explained that, because those who will attend will not assemble at a particular start time(s), “group tours” wouldn’t be given. But, staff will be available to help the public with information as they go to each display area that is of interest to them.

Father Joe Redican stated some people have difficulty reading and understanding maps and aerial photographs. He indicated it may help if a written description of the meeting displays were available. He acknowledged that having that description in any language but English may not be possible given the time constraints.

Kathryn Savoie said she doesn't think the Environmental Impact Statement process graphic is understandable. Gerri Ayers said MDOT has an EIS process display to replace it.

Josephine Powell asked about the meeting format. Gerri Ayers explained the open-house style is MDOT's preferred method based on years of experience. She noted that many people don't want to spend hours at a meeting/presentation. She also noted that many people are not comfortable speaking in front of others, because they often feel intimidated.

Gloria Combe suggested that a "What is Intermodal" display would be helpful. Mohammed Alghurabi said the project team would prepare one. Gloria said that the railroads have information available and would be willing to help.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Mohammed Alghurabi asked for comments. None were received.

Preliminary Economic Impact Area

Joe Corradino distributed for review maps with preliminary definitions of local economic impact areas for the CN Moterm and CP Oak terminals. He explained how the boundaries were developed. He asked for feedback then and over the next several weeks. He indicated the area boundaries would be finalized after the Local Advisory Council was expanded.

Father Redican asked if the local economic impact area for the Livernois-Junction Yard and CP/Expressway terminals had been finalized. Joe Corradino said he thought so as referenced in the notes of the January 28 LAC meeting.

Air Quality Analysis

Mohammed Alghurabi noted that a meeting is scheduled with Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision for February 25 to review the air quality analysis.

Other

Karen Kavanaugh requested a copy of the scoping comments that MDOT has been compiling. Mohammed Alghurabi said he would provide a copy of the written comments.

Karen Kavanaugh also asked if the city of Detroit had submitted its scoping comments. Bruce King said the city will wait until the next scoping meeting to submit its comments. (The next scoping meeting will probably be held some time in May.) Bruce said there is no deadline for scoping comments so the city doesn't feel like it's "under the gun" to submit them. Karen urged the city to identify its issues and concerns and put them in the written record as early as possible. Bruce said the city will do so as early as it can, subject to their completion and approval by the Administration.

Mohammed Alghurabi addressed Kathryn Savoie's request made at the January 28 LAC meeting that MDOT waive the fees for documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Mohammed said the fee could not be waived. But, he indicated if members of the LAC want a DIFT-related document, they should present their request to him. If the document(s) is available and not "in progress" he would provide it without charge. He added that they should request the document through him and not via FOIA.

Public Comment

Josephine Powell asked for some background on studies that have been done to explain how MDOT got where it is today on the DIFT project. Mohammed Alghurabi referenced the project Web site, the Mercer reports and the DIFT technical reports to date. He offered to speak with Ms. Powell after the meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2003 at 7 p.m. The location is to be determined. It may be in a new location to accommodate new members that are part of the expanded LAC.

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Detroit Intermodal Freight Terminal
Local Advisory Council Meeting
February 20, 2003

Name	Organization	Telephone
Mohammed Alghurabi	MDOT	517-373-7674
Don Cameron	FHWA	517-702-1826
Gloria Combe	CN Railroad	248-740-6574
Lt. Steven Hurst	Detroit Fire Marshall	313-696-2931
Karen Kavanaugh	SDBA/CBRA	313-842-0986
Bruce M. King	Dept. Env. Affairs	313-471-5103
Carmine Palombo	SEMCOG	313-961-4266`
Joe Redican	Holy Redeemer School	313-841-4433
Kathryn Savoie	ACCESS/CBRA	313-216-2225

OBSERVERS		
Ari Adler	The Corradino Group	517-333-6560
Geralyn Ayers	MDOT Environmental	517-373-7674
Frank Battaglia	Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers	734-775-4901
Marty Connor	Mars Industries	313-841-1800
Dan Cook III	Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers	517-764-3652
Joe Corradino	The Corradino Group	313-841-4433
Jeff Edwards	MDOT Metro Region	248-483-5114
Clarice Gibbons-Allen	DDOT	313-833-7670
Gale Govaere	Sen. Carl Levin	313-226-6020
Jim Hartman	The Corradino Group	313-964-1926
Randy Henke	Benesch	262-652-6677
Morris Hood III	State Representative	517-373-3815
Tim Jenkins	MDA-MI State Fair	313-369-2931
Mike Kunz	Benesch	262-652-6677
Sherry Piacenti	MDOT Real Estate	517-373-4152
Greg Powell	Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers	248-681-4435
Josephine Powell	Wayne County Department of Environment	313-224-2658
Olga Savil	Rep. Steve Tobocman	517-373-0823
Marisal Sirnon	DDOT	313-833-7666
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